

The
THOREAU
SOCIETY
BULLETIN

BULLETIN SIXTY-SEVEN

SPRING, 1959

THE ANNUAL MEETING . . .

The 1959 annual meeting of the Thoreau Society will be held on Saturday, July 11th, in the First Parish Church in Concord, Mass. The session will open with a business meeting and election of officers at 10:30 a.m. Dean J. Lyndon Shandley of Northwestern University will deliver the presidential address on "The Pleasures of Walden." In commemoration of the centennial of John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry, Truman Nelson of Salem, Massachusetts, and author of a forthcoming book on John Brown, will speak on "A Plea for Henry Thoreau."

Luncheon will be served in the vestry of the church at noon and will be followed in the afternoon by dedication of four bronze plaques marking the sites of Thoreau's birthplace, the Texas House, the Main Street House, and Concord Jail. These plaques have been donated to the society by Mr. Samuel T. Wellman of Cleveland, Ohio, and will for the first time mark adequately the major Thoreau sites in the town of Concord.

An evening session will be held in the First Parish vestry at which the members of the Save Walden Committee will give the latest reports on the Battle of Walden.

A special exhibition of materials in the Thoreau Society archives has been arranged at the Concord Free Public Library by Mrs. Caleb Wheeler.

THE ANNUAL ELECTION . . .

The following officers have been nominated for election at the annual meeting: President, Paul Oehser of Washington, D.C.; vice-president, Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass.; secretary-treasurer, Walter Harding, Geneseo, N.Y.—all for terms of one year. Members of the executive committee for three years: Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, Concord, Mass.; Mrs. Charles Edwards, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

THOREAU'S HOUND, BAY HORSE, AND TURTLEDOVE
by William Bysshe Stein
Washington & Jefferson College

Thoreau's familiar digression on the hound, bay horse, and turtledove in Chapter I of *Walden* has to be associated with the preliminary statement which the sequence of images illustrates: "You will pardon some obscurities, for there are more secrets in my trade than in most men's, and yet not involuntarily kept, but inseparable from its very nature." Since, as we learn a moment later, this trade "is with the Celestial Empire," it seems to follow that his quest for these lost creatures is directly related to his search for divine wisdom. But inasmuch as such an experience involves transformation, not merely information, it cannot be communicated verbally. Like his sojourn on Walden Pond, its meaning has to be inferred from the way of life which is adumbrated, what he

calls in the complementary verses to Chapter I "that heroic virtue/For which antiquity hath left no name,/But patterns only, such as Hercules."

As Tom Peete Cross's Motif-Index of Early Irish Literature (Bloomington, 1952) clearly proves, the pattern in question, with innumerable variations, is frequently encountered in the myth and folklore of Ireland. More often than not, it is connected with a test and/or quest whose successful completion depends upon the aid of a supernatural horse, dog, or bird. I would like to suggest that Thoreau heard such a story in his, no doubt, numerous conversations with the Irish immigrants who worked on the railroad adjacent to the pond. And it was probably a version of "The Story of Conneda; or the Golden Apples of Lough Erne," a work which is included in William Butler Yeats' Irish Fairy and Folk Tales (Modern Library; New York, n.d.).

This tale involves a youthful hero who is sent on a dangerous quest into the land of fairy for three golden apples, a steed, and a hound, all possessing magical powers. This test, devised by a wicked stepmother who seeks to deprive him of his rightful kingship of Ireland, appears to promise certain death. However, a puissant druid advises him to trust his luck to a nondescript horse which guides him to the elusive Bird of the Human Head, from whom he receives all the help needed to fulfill his mission. But not until he undergoes the most arduous physical and moral ordeals does he procure the three extraordinary trophies and, in the process, supreme wisdom. In short, he re-enacts a pattern of heroic virtue that qualifies him to reign in the place of a faultless father. Symbolically, of course, Thoreau emulates the accomplishment of Conneda, for he too perfects his life by trusting his instincts (the animal in man) to lead him to his goal of self-understanding. This inadequate paraphrase, I must confess, hardly does justice to the astounding imaginative richness of the folktale, for its implications are keyed to the shape-shifting rhythms of *Walden* itself.

I might add that the adventures of Conneda are paralleled to a considerable extent in another Irish myth, "The King of Ireland and the Queen of Lonesome Island." Once again it is an unimpressive horse that insures the hero's successful quest. Strikingly enough, this story, like the one above, still floated in the oral traditions of Ireland in the latter part of the nineteenth-century, see Jeremiah Curtin's Myths and Folk-lore of Ireland (Boston, 1906).

IF THIS PARAGRAPH IS MARKED WITH RED CRAYON, YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE THOREAU SOCIETY EXPIRES WITH THIS ISSUE. LIFE MEMBERSHIP IS TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS; ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS ONE DOLLAR. DUES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY:

Walter Harding
State University Teachers College
Geneseo, New York.

MULTIPLE YEAR RENEWALS ARE WELCOMED TO SAVE PAPERWORK ON BOTH YOUR PART AND OURS.

PRELIMINARY CHECK-LIST OF THE EDITIONS
OF "CAPE COD"
by Kenneth Harber

Listed chronologically: If date is underlined, it is date of issuance; if not underlined, it is date imprinted. Dates at end of each item are dates of later printings.

Each Index Number indicates an edition distinct from others through change in edition name, in printing plates, in name of publisher, or in a significant physical aspect. Binding variations or additional printings do not qualify.
List uses publisher's name as given on back-strip, when it differs from name on title page.

List does not contain excerpts. Question mark indicates data could be established by inspection. Parentheses indicate data are reasoned and cannot be confirmed. E indicates book has been examined

I am anxious to inspect or to get confirmation on all editions and later printings that have not been examined, especially items 9, 11, 14, 22, 23. KEH

1. 1864; 1865E Boston: Ticknor & Fields. First Edition. Edited by Sophia Thoreau and W. E. Channing; 24 pages of ads. '65E, no ads; '65-66E;
2. 1865 London: Samson Low, Son & Marston. First British Edition, and first Thoreau book to be published abroad.
3. (1868-70); 1866E Boston: Fields, Osgood & Co.
4. 1871? Boston: James R. Osgood & Co. '73E; '75E; '77?
5. (1878); 1877E Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co. '79?
6. 1881? Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Gilt autograph on cover, uniform with other works: '83?; '84E; '85?; '86E; '87; '88?; '90E; '91?; '92?
7. 1893; 1894E Boston: Houghton. Volume iv of x (later xi) "Riverside Edition-Writings". Unsigned introduction by Scudder. '95E; '96?; '97; '98E; ('99)E; 1900?; ('02)E;
8. 1893; 1894E Boston: Houghton. The same, large paper edition.
- 9? 1894? London: Constable? British Riverside Edition? 1940?
10. 1896E Boston: Houghton. Holiday Edition in 2 volumes with Scudder introduction expanded and Watson water-colors. '99; '04E;
- 11? 1896? British Holiday Edition?
12. 1906E Boston: Houghton. Volume iv of xx of "Manuscript Edition-Writings", includes MISCELLANIES, Scudder expanded unsigned introduction and H. W. Gleason photos.
13. 1906E Boston: Houghton. Volume iv of xx of "Walden Edition-Writings", details as in #12 above.
- 14? 1906? Boston: Houghton. Volume ? of x of Concord Edition-Writings?
15. 1907E New York; Thos. Y. Crowell. Introduction by Annie Russell Marble.
16. 1908E New York: Crowell. "Second Edition" with introduction and photos by Clifton Johnson.
17. 1912E London: George G. Harrap & Co. Details as in #16 above.
18. 1914E Boston: Houghton. "Visitors Edition", with introduction and photos by Charles S. Olcott.
19. 1914 New York: Crowell. Volume ? of v of thin paper set of works.

20. 1915 Boston: Houghton. Volume iv of xi of Riverside Pocket Edition.
21. 1929E Boston: Houghton. Volume ii of v of "Concord Edition-Works", edited by H. G. O. Blake, includes MAINE WOODS and MISCELLANIES.
- 22? 1932? Boston: Houghton? "Riverside Cambridge Edition-Writings"?
- 23? 1939? Boston: Houghton? "Riverside Edition-Writings" in 8 volumes?
24. 1940E New York: Crowell. "Works", includes Emerson's biographical sketch, WALDEN, MAINE WOODS, WEEK.
25. 1951E New York: W. W. Norton & Co. "First Edition", includes part of 1857 Journal, Notes by Lunt, Introduction by Beston, and illustrations by Kane.
26. 1951? Toronto: George J. McLeod Ltd. Canadian edition of #25 above.

SAVE WALDEN COMMITTEE REPORT . . .

We wish to thank the generous contributors who have enabled us to carry the case to this point, and to ask for the moral and financial support of others who believe that the intent of the donors of the Walden land should be carried out.

In the spring of 1957, alarmed at the action of the Middlesex County Commissioners in laying waste an acre and a half of Walden's wooded slope in order to enlarge the natural beach, and by their announcement of a 15-year plan for "improvements," the Save Walden Committee was formed. It sought and obtained a temporary restraining order that halted the construction of a hard-topped road and a 100-foot bathhouse.

This spring the Superior Court vacated the order and dismissed the petition. The Save Walden Committee has taken an appeal from the action of the Superior Court to the Supreme Judicial Court and will ask that Court to order the entry of a final decree permanently restraining the County Commissioners from making substantial changes at Walden Pond. Frederick G. Fisher, Jr. of the Boston law firm of Hale and Dorr represents the Committee.

If we win, the Save Walden Committee will establish a legal precedent which will go far to halt similar onslaughts against sites of natural beauty and historical significance.

Checks to support the appeal should be made to the Thoreau Society Inc., and mailed to Robert F. Needham, Treas., 11 Terrace, Concord, Mass.

The Save Walden Committee

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

The July page of the 1959 calendar of "Great Americans" issued by the E. F. Schmidt Co., 3420 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee 16, Wisc., is devoted to Thoreau and includes two striking drawings of him.

G.E.Theatre's television program for March 22, 1959, was an adaptation of Owen Cameron's story "The Lady's Choice." The adapter, Kathleen Hite, inserted many quotations from Thoreau into the dialogue, and, in response to an inquiry, replied, in explanation, "What I wanted the young lady to say had already been said best by Thoreau."

The May 17th program of "Invitation to Learning" was devoted to Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience."

The Berg Collection of the New York Public Library is currently displaying among its recent acquisitions Thoreau's unpublished Maine Woods Journal and the manuscripts of several Thoreau poems.

The cost of printing the current bulletin was covered by the life membership of Herbert Faulkner West of Hanover, New Hampshire. Life membership in the Thoreau Society is twenty-five dollars.

The Concord Free Public Library has recently given Thoreau's herbarium to the Gray Herbarium at Harvard University so that it could be cared for under ideal conditions. There is a photograph of a portion of the herbarium in the CONCORD JOURNAL for April 23, 1959, and another in the HARVARD ALUMNI BULLETIN for April 4, 1959.

LIFE MAGAZINE for March 16, 1959, includes an article on "The Private Letters of the President [Eisenhower]" and quotes (p. 114) a letter of March 26, 1958, in which Ike says, "Through the years I have done a bit of reading about some of the thinkers like Plato, Kant, and Nietzsche, not to mention such proponents of more particularized ideas, such as Tom Paine, Thoreau and Machiavelli."

According to the SATURDAY REVIEW for March 21, 1959 (p. 55), Robert Frost "likes to say that there are two post-Puritan books that are never quite out of his mind, Thoreau's 'Walden' and Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe.'"

The March 9, 1959, issue of ADVERTISING AGE contains the following note:

Reflections in Walden Pond

It is never too late to give up our prejudices. No way of thinking or doing, however ancient, can be trusted without proof. What everybody echoes or in silence passes by as true today, may turn out to be falsehood tomorrow. Man's capacities have never been measured; nor are we to judge of what he can do by any precedents, so little has been tried.—Thoreau



No. 4 OF A SERIES OF 52

THOREAU IN TEXAS—W. M. Storey Advertising, San Antonio transit advertising company, is running a series of car cards featuring excerpts from Thoreau's "Walden" in San Antonio buses. Each card runs a week, so 52 separate Thoreau quotes will be seen this year. Since many of the cards have been removed from their frames and appropriated by bus riders, Storey recently ran a newspaper ad asking bus riders to wait until the end of the day before taking cards. The San Antonio Public Library reported that for the first time in many years all copies of "Walden" are out on loan.

TIME MAGAZINE is currently using as an advertising device an enlargement of Burr Shaffer's cartoon showing a large family with picnic baskets under arm, strolling through the woods as the wife says, "Don't be silly. Mr. Thoreau will be DELIGHTED to see us." (See Bulletin 26).

THOREAU'S SOURCE OF THE MOTTO IN "CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE" by Lee A. Pederson

The quotation included in the first sentence of "Civil Disobedience," "I heartily accept the motto 'That government is best which governs least,'" is apparently an alteration of the motto of The United States Magazine, and Democratic Review. On the title page of each volume of the magazine appears the motto, "The Best Government Is That Which Governs Least." This is the first sentence of a paragraph beginning on page six of the "Introduction" concerning "The Democratic

Principle--The Importance of Its Assertion and Application to Our Political System and Literature" in the first number of the first volume, October, 1837:

The best government is that which governs least. No human depositories can, with safety, be trusted with the power of legislation upon the general interests of society so as to operate directly or indirectly on the industry and property of the community. This essay is unsigned, but the editor in 1837 was the same John Louis O'Sullivan who asked Thoreau to write for the magazine in 1843.

That Thoreau was paraphrasing to improve the rhythm of the sentence is suggested by the fact that Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. in The Age of Jackson (Chap. XXXVII) gives the motto of The Democratic Review as "That government is best which governs least."

THE THOREAU AGES

'n editorial claim, if it is voiced loudly, is almost impossible to overtake and correct. It took years, for example, for the poem "Carpe Diem" to be removed from the Thoreau canon after it appeared in the short lived periodical The Boatswain's Whistle of November 16, 1864, over the initials "H. T." Not even Francis H. Allen's careful article in the Thoreau Society Bulletin has laid the ghost of that attribution. The poem does not have merit enough to be reprinted often. If it were reprinted, one can be sure that over and over again Thoreau would be claimed as author even yet.

An equally stubborn ghost to lay is the notion that Frank B. Sanborn and Henry H. Harper restored the original and full text of Walden in the two volume version which they produced for publication by The Bibliophile Society, Boston, 1909. Mr. Sanborn made his immodest claim, and even now after James Lyndon Shanley's book The Making of Walden has revealed the true state of affairs that garbled Sanborn-Harris text is claimed as authentic.

Opposite page x of the "Prefatory Remarks" by Henry H. Harper at the beginning of the Bibliophile book there is a facsimile reproduction of one page of Walden with vast textual changes in pencil. It is page 175 of the "Riverside Edition" copyrighted in 1893. Recently the copy of the 1893 edition used by Sanborn and Harper was listed in a bookseller's catalogue. And the ghost walks again in the dealer's description of the book: "This copy has been corrected and extended to correspond with the original ms. as left by Thoreau at his death. Footnotes are by the late Frank B. Sanborn, who was a friend and neighbor of Thoreau. The new text includes several thousand words omitted in the printed editions. Pencilled additions in the margins are mostly by Henry H. Harper who assisted Mr. Sanborn in restoring the text to the form in which Thoreau wrote it."

This book which has come onto the market (and is likely to stay there at its \$75 price) shows how Sanborn and Harris worked. But if you want to know how Thoreau worked, you'd better read Shanley's book.

-- Raymond Adams

BACK NUMBERS OF OUR PUBLICATIONS . . .

The following back publications of the Thoreau Society are available from the secretary:

Reprint of Bulletins 1-9	50¢
Bulletins 10, 11, 14-67, each	25¢
Booklets 3-8, 10, each	25¢
Booklets 9, 11-13, each	\$1.00
Bulletins 13 and 14 and Booklets 1 and 2	are out-of-print, but the secretary will gladly loan office copies for those who wish to make photostatic copies.

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY..WH

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- Moiles, Bill. "Henry D. Thoreau Pens Columnist a Missive." WORCESTER DAILY TELEGRAM. March 10, 1959. On Walden Pond's being stocked with trout.
- . "Thoreau Would Want Trout in Walden Pond." WORCESTER TELEGRAM. March 5, 1959. More on same.
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- For information used in this bulletin, I am indebted to the following: R.Adams, H.Adel, T.Bailey, M.Campbell, R.Cherry, K.Cameron, L.Chirin, T.Davis, R.Dickens, R.Frederick, C.Hoagland, G.Hosmer, J.Kennedy, A.Kovar, H.Kettell, M.Kelly, J.Lauber, G.Manley, G.Megathlin, D.Moure, V.Munoz, P.Oehser, R.Rutherford, E.Schofield, I.Schroeder, E.Shute, R.Schaedle, G.Smith, and I.Wilson. Please keep the secretary informed of new items as they appear and items he has missed.
- The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an informal organization of students and followers of Henry David Thoreau. Its bulletins are issued quarterly; its booklets, occasionally. Annual meetings are held in Concord each July. Officers of the society are J. Lyndon Shanley, Evanston, Ill., president; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, secretary-treasurer. Annual membership is one dollar; sustaining membership, two to twenty-four dollars; life membership, twenty-five dollars. Communications concerning membership or publications should be addressed to the secretary:
- Walter Harding
State University Teachers College
Geneseo, New York.